

G-I-A-172

George W. Blocher House
Avilton
Private

1890

Erected c.1890, the George W. Blocher House is a two story, frame dwelling with a cross gable roof and a stone foundation. Its basic configuration is a three bay by two bay, center hall plan with a two-story rear ell and a two-story rear porch. Its ornamental details include bay windows, weatherboard siding, an ornate bracketed cornice, and other millwork. A small, frame outbuilding at the rear of the house serves a dual function as a springhouse and a dance hall.

The George W. Blocher House is an ornate example of the house type most commonly found in Garrett County from the mid-nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries; the two story, gable-roofed, rectangular, frame farmhouse with a center hall plan and a rear wing. The larger proportions of this building and the decorative details such as the heavily molded and bracketed cornice, the bay windows, and the two-tiered porches give this house a much grader appearance than the more common unadorned farmhouses in the vicinity.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

G-T-1-172
MAGI #1203005635
G

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

George W. Blocher House

AND/OR COMMON

Forrest G. Blocher Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Blocher Road, SW side, 1.1 mile SE of Green Lantern Road

CITY, TOWN

Avilton

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ MUSEUM

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ PARK

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ MILITARY

☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Forrest G and Betty J. Blocher

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: 273

Folio #: 321

STREET & NUMBER

Garrett County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Third and Alder Streets

STATE

Oakland

Maryland 21550

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Erected c.1890, the George W. Blocher House is a two-story, frame dwelling with a cross gable roof and a stone foundation. Its basic configuration is a three bay by two bay, center hall plan with a two-story rear ell and a two-story rear porch. Its ornamental details include bay windows, weatherboard siding, an ornate bracketed cornice, and other millwork. A small, frame outbuilding at the rear of the house serves a dual function as a springhouse and a dance hall.

The facade (SW elevation) has a symmetrical, three bay, center door arrangement with a wide, central cross gable. The first floor doorway consists of a set of double doors ornamented with molded, round-arched panels, topped by a transom light. Flanking this doorway is a pair of bay windows with bracketed dentil cornices and molded, recessed panels below their sash. A raised, four-panel door with a two-pane transom occupies the second floor, center bay. However, the two-story entrance porch that framed both doorways has been removed. The second floor windows, like those on the other elevations, are 2/2 sash with plain wooden sills and no surrounds. A round-arched 2/2 sash pierces the gable.

Both end walls have two 2/2 sash windows per floor, and round-arched 2/2 sash in their gables flanking the interior brick chimneys that rise through the center of those walls.

A two-story, gable-roofed wing, measuring one bay by two bays, joins the rear wall at its north corner. The unfenestrated end wall of this wing has a cellar entrance at its foundation and a brick chimney rising through its interior. A two-story, shed-roofed, porch with chamfered posts and jig-sawn railings shelters the southeast side of the wing and the rear elevation. Recently, part of the first floor porch was enclosed with cinderblock.

The roof is covered with corrugated metal and has a cyma reversa box cornice with partial gable end returns. Scroll brackets and dentils form a frieze below the cornice.

The two bay by one bay, gable-roofed outbuilding is located approximately fifty feet northwest of the house. The space within its stone foundation functions as a springhouse, while the balloon frame structure above was used as a dance hall. Its exterior is finished with weatherboard siding, a transom-topped doorway, 2/2 sash windows, and a box cornice with partial gable end returns.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	1890	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The George W. Blocher House is an ornate example of the house type most commonly found in Garrett County from the mid-nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries; the two story, gable-roofed, rectangular, frame farmhouse with a center hall plan and a rear wing. The larger proportions of this building and the decorative details such as the heavily molded and bracketed cornice, the bay windows, and the two-tiered porches give this house a much grander appearance than the more common unadorned farmhouses in the vicinity.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Valerie Cesna, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

January 1982

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

CHAIN OF TITLE

G-I-A-172

George W. Blocher House

August 9, 1966
273/321

Grantees: Forrest G. Blocher & Betty J. Blocher (w) of
G Co.

Grantor: George H. Blocher & Leona M. Blocher (w)

Consideration: \$10.00 plus other consideration

Acreage: 125

Election District No. 9

#1: Military Lot No. 685, 50 acres

#2: Military Lot No. 778, 50 acres

#3: Military Lot No. 684, west half, 25 acres

August 9, 1966
273/321

Grantees: George H. Blocher & Leona M. Blocher

Grantor: Forrest G. Blocher & Betty J. Blocher

Consideration: \$10.00 plus other consideration (same
land as above)

May 19, 1961
234/388

Grantee: Forrest G. Blocher

Grantor: George H. Blocher & Leona M. Blocher (w)

Consideration: \$10.00 plus other consideration

Acreage: 125

#1: Military Lots Nos. 685 & 778. Same as conveyed to
Bradford Blocher by George W. Blocher, 5 July 1910
(61/304)

#2: Military Lot No. 684. $\frac{1}{2}$ Conveyed to Bradford
Blocher by Henry Blocher and wife 16 June 1900
(88/485)

July 5, 1910
61/304

Grantee: Bradford Blocher of G.Co.

Grantor: George W. Blocher (unmarried) of G. Co.

Consideration: \$2,000.00

Acreage:

Military Lots 685 & 778. Same property which was conveyed
by Bradford Blocher (then unmarried) to George W. Blocher,
25 January 1889 (14/342)

January 25, 1889
14/342

Grantee: George W. Blocher

Grantor: Bradford Blocher

Consideration: \$1,300.00

Military Lots 685 & 778 with improvements thereon. This
property being the remainder of the life estate of Louisa
Blocher, widow of the late John Blocher in said Military
Lots of which he died, seized in virtue of a deed to him
from Joshua Johnson, 29 March 1848 (liber 4, folio 300,
Alleghany County Land Records).

Pa., and near the Youghiogheny River. There are several veins of coal in this vicinity, two, three, and five feet thick. The merchants are P. T. Garthright (postmaster) and Jeremiah Guard. The woolen-mills are run by Alfred Daniels, and the saw-mill by John M. Miller. Lewis Neil is the tinner, and August Neil, J. L. Sellers, and Otho Speelman, millers.

The school-teachers for the year ending May 13, 1881, were as follows:

- School No. 1.—Jennie A. Miller.
- No. 2.—John Steele.
- No. 3.—R. F. Liston.
- No. 4.—G. M. Steele.
- No. 5.—Samuel E. Friend, George Dunham.
- No. 6.—W. N. Myers.
- No. 7.—Taylor Friend.
- No. 8.—E. J. Stuck.
- No. 9.—Jefferson Guard.

School trustees for the year ending May, 1882:

- School No. 1. Elder Hill.—Morgan Conneway, Matthew Frazee, Robert Sterling.
- No. 2. Friendsville.—W. A. Coddington, E. M. Friend, Joshua M. Friend.
- No. 3. Selbysport.—John Frantz, H. M. Frazee, John Riley.
- No. 4. Frazee Ridge.—S. P. Lowdermilk, Lucian Frazee, H. B. Demmitt.
- No. 5. Mount Holly, or Rush.—James H. Rush, Elijah Myers, George D. Frantz.
- No. 6. Sandy Spring.—Isaac Myers, J. W. Frantz.
- No. 7. Ira Friend.—Ira E. Friend, William Umbel, John H. Friend.
- No. 8. Ashe's Glade.—Isaac C. Frazee, Elijah Thomas, Elisha Umbel.
- No. 9. Mill Run.—Benjamin H. Green, Jonas Wass, Newton Guard.

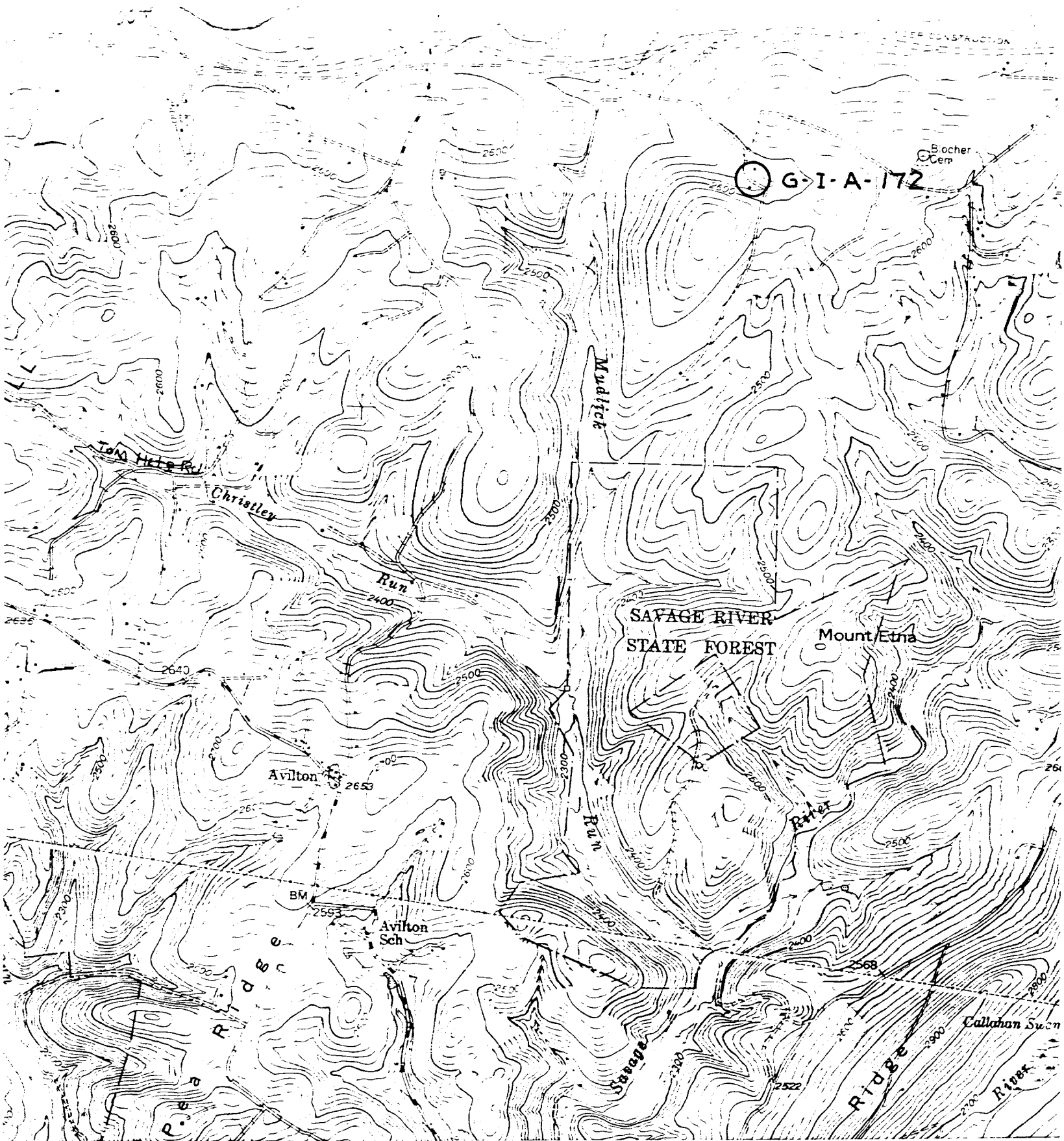
Joseph Frantz, of Joseph, died at his residence near Selbysport, Nov. 23, 1879, aged seventy-three. He was at one time a county commissioner, and in 1851 was elected to the Legislature. With the exception of the venerable George Matthews, he was the last of the old citizens of the district.

Grantsville District, No. 3, is bounded on the north by Pennsylvania, east by Johnson's and Bloomington Districts, south by Bloomington and Altamont Districts, and west by Accident. It is the largest and wealthiest district in the county, being underlaid with the best coal, and having large tracts of valuable pine and other woods for lumber.

Among the earliest settlers were Jesse Tomlinson, the Bruces, Gettys, Darts, Fullers, Browns, Laymans, Glotfeltys, Wileys, Shultzes, Woodina, Yutseys, Bakcrs, Yoders, Sloans, Beachcys, Shaws, Mancolms, Stantons, Wagoners, Bevans, Broadwaters, Blochers, Dorseys, Custers, Comptons, Ottoes, Millers, Lohrs, Gnageys, George Matthews, John Farrell, Engles, Freshes, Hanson Grant, McKenzies, Spikers, Ridgeleys, Weitzells, and Thistles.

"Grassy Cabin Survey" was the earliest entered near Grantsville, and was made in 1768. John Sloan was the first settler upon it, a part of which he purchased before the Revolutionary war. He was twice married. By his first wife he had one child only,—Mary,—and by his second, six children. To his son John Joseph he conveyed his lands of four hundred and seventy-three and a half acres, part of "Grassy Cabin Survey." John Sloan died about 1826, and John Joseph Sloan died in 1832. The heirs of John Joseph Sloan conveyed by deed this land to Jacob and Daniel Blongher, but after the death of Sloan, Henry Brewer obtained out of the Land Office of the Western Shore of Maryland a special warrant to escheat this land for an alleged want of legal heirs, and a patent was issued to said Brewer. The lessee of Brewer brought suit in the Allegany County Court against the Blonghers (Jacob and Daniel) to recover the land, setting forth that John Joseph Sloan had no title and could not convey, and claimed it under the State escheat law and patent. The suit finally reached the United States Supreme Court, which (Judge Taney delivering the opinion) at its January term, in 1840, held that the title of the Blonghers was good. John Wesley Blongher now resides on this tract, a mile and a half east of Grantsville, upon which he has a beautiful mansion overlooking the National road.

More than a century ago a young man named Jesse Tomlinson removed from Will's Creek to the Little Meadows (three miles east of Grantsville), where he worked a farm and carried on a tavern. He was prosperous, considering the times, but was a bachelor and needed a helpmate in his business. The tide of immigration, then as now, was westward. On a lucky day a genteel family from the East passed along "Braddock's road," bound for "old Kentucky," and halted at the modest inn for shelter. Mine host was at once captivated, and the young lady never got any farther west than Little Meadows. They lived a happy and prosperous pair, and both died the same year,—1840. He represented the county for many years in the Legislature, and in his day was the most important and influential man in the upper part of Allegany. He was foremost in every enterprise, and in the course of his long life held many public positions, and acquired much property. He owned many slaves, one of whom, Reeson Sweet, still survives. Jesse Tomlinson had five sons, to all of whom he gave a generous education, but none had the thrift of the father. Henry, the youngest and favorite son, graduated at Washington College, Pennsylvania, and in 1825 became a member of the



Avilton, MD-PA
USGS 7.5 Minute Series
Scale - 1:24,000
1947; photorevised 1974

Site #: G-I-A-172
George W. Blocher House
Blocher Road, SW side, 1.1 mile SE
of Green Lantern Road



G-I-A-172

George W. Blocher Farm

Garrett Co., MD

Valerie Cesna 7/22/81

Facade - SW & NW elevations



G-I-A-172

George W. Blocher Farm

Garrett Co., MD

Valerie Cesna 7/22/81

Rear-NE elevation